IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings and versions.

1. Cancel.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting and receiving an electronic mail comprising:

generating an encoded electronic mail to which open date and hour data indicating an open date and hour at which the electronic mail may be opened are added in a transmitting side communication terminal;

decoding and opening said encoded electronic mail at a receiving side communication terminal after a current date and hour reach said open date and hour;

~~The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

preventing said encoded electronic mail from being decoded at~~in~~ said receiving side communication terminal receiving said encoded electronic mail, until said current date and hour reach said ~~"~~open date and hour~~"~~; and

requiring, based on the receipt of the electronic mail, said receiving side communication terminal to set said current date and hour when said receiving side communication terminal does not have said current date and hour set.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 2, further comprising:

when said current date and hour is changed to another current date and hour, changing said "open date and hour" based on said current date and hour and said another current date and hour.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 3, wherein a relation between said current date and hour and said "open date and hour" prior to the change is equivalent to a relation between said other current date and hour and said "open date and hour" after the change.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 3, further comprising:

requiring said receiving side communication terminal to open said encoded electronic mail when said current date and hour reach said "open date and hour".

6. (Original) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 3, further comprising:

further adding a mail deletion key code to said encoded electronic mail;

recording said received encoded electronic mail together with said mail deletion key code; and

deleting said encoded electronic mail having same mail deletion key code.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 2, further comprising:

requiring said receiving side communication terminal to open said encoded electronic mail when said current date and hour reach said "open date and hour".

8. (Original) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 2, further comprising:

further adding a mail deletion key code to said encoded electronic mail;

recording said received encoded electronic mail together with said mail deletion key code; and

deleting said encoded electronic mail having same mail deletion key code.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting and receiving an electronic mail comprising:

generating an encoded electronic mail to which open date and hour data indicating an open date and hour at which the electronic mail may be opened are added in a transmitting side communication terminal;

decoding and opening said encoded electronic mail at a receiving side communication terminal after a current date and hour reach said open date and hour;

~~The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

when said current date and hour are~~is~~ changed to another current date and hour, changing said "open date and hour" based on said current date and hour and said another current date and hour.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 9, wherein a relation between said current date and hour and said "open date and hour" prior to the change is equivalent to a relation between said other current date and hour and said "open date and hour" after the change.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 9, further comprising:

requiring said receiving side communication terminal to open said encoded electronic mail when said current date and hour reach said "open date and hour".

12. (Original) The method of transmitting and receiving the electronic mail according to claim 9, further comprising:

further adding a mail deletion key code to said encoded electronic mail;

recording said received encoded electronic mail together with said mail deletion key code; and

deleting said encoded electronic mail having same mail deletion key code.

13-15. Cancel.

16. (Currently Amended) A terminal apparatus comprising:

a receiver which receives an encoded electronic mail to which open date and hour data indicating an open date and hour at which the electronic mail may be opened are added in a transmitting side communication terminal; and

a controller which decodes and opens said encoded electronic mail received by said receiver, after current date and hour reach said open date and hour,

~~The terminal apparatus according to claim 15,~~ wherein said controller set said current date and hour, and changes said "open date and hour" when said current date and hour are~~is~~ changed to another current date and hour, and wherein

a relation between said current date and hour and said "open date and hour" prior to the change is equivalent to a relation between said other current date and hour and said "open date and hour" after the change.